

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

September 9, 2002 REGULAR MEETING

September 9, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dennis Sullivan called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 8:02 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Bauer, Ms. Murray, Ms. Rossetti, and Ms. Taylor.

Ms. Harris, Alderman White and Mayor Gay were absent.

III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

There were no presentations made this evening.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following Minutes were approved, as amended, for printing by voice vote:

August 26, 2002:

- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole
Ms. Rossetti amended the above minutes as follows: pg. 173 (Driver Education Program - Motion) to read:

MOTION: *Ms. Cardoso* made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris, to table discussion of the high school drivers' education program until the September 9, 2002 Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote.

August 26, 2002:

- Regular Meeting
Ms. Bauer amended the above minutes as follows: pg. 176 (Report of Superintendent, Upcoming scheduled school committee meetings) – September 30, 2002 – Rules Committee of the Whole – item #1 to read: *Control Choice Plan/PreSchool – 8*.

V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student representative Kim Carvalho began by expressing she hoped everyone had a pleasant summer. She then reported on the following items for this evening:

Informed members she welcomed Mr. Ciccariello back to Somerville High School. She and the students are very happy to have him return and serving as the new SHS Vice Headmaster.

Kim reported on the new block schedule this year and expressed she believes it will work out successfully for all students.

V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (cont.)

Regarding the anniversary of the September 11th national tragedy, Kim reported that Somerville High School students will be involved in remembering the heroism of those firefighters and police officers who died in the line of duty serving their country, and also those who were innocent victims. The morning will begin with a moment of silence and later on, Senior Class President, Melinda Barbosa, will lead the school in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Kim, along with many of the other members of the National Honor Society, will be rotating shifts, standing outside the high school with many American flags in honor the September 11th.

In closing, Kim expressed her excitement about her senior year of high school and stated she looks forward to attending the regularly scheduled school committee meetings to bring news to the school committee as well as the community.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. Thanked the students, staff and administration for a very successful first four days of school. Dr. Argenziano reported we had two hundred additional students enter our schools. Once the student entries and transfers are complete, it appears our enrollment, as planned, will be between 5,950 to 5,980 by October 1st.
2. Information concerning our drop out rates for the school year 2001 was provided to members. Dr. Argenziano expressed his congratulations to Somerville High School – the dropout rate was reduced 4.9 to 3.3 percent. He thanked Mr. Galligani and his staff as a drop of 1.6% is something to applaud.
3. Also enclosed is a K-12 Coordination memorandum, provided with information of the schedule of the Coordinators in the K-8 buildings and where they can be reached.
4. Information regarding the enrollment projections (2002-2003) was given to members. This will continue to be updated right through the first week in October because the number of students entering or transferring hasn't been complete as of this date.
5. Also provided was the 2002 Advanced Placement Test Results. As previously discussed, advanced placement credit is usually given by colleges to students with a grade of 3, 4, or 5.
6. Dr. Argenziano informed school committee members he would provide information for them in next week's packet for the Long Range Planning Committee - September 23, 2002 meeting, which will be held at the East Somerville Community School.
7. Correspondence from Rhoda Schneider, General Counsel for the Department of Education regarding MCAS graduation requirements was provided to members. Michael Long, Attorney for Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents sent a copy to all Superintendents and Dr. Argenziano wanted to share this information.
8. Enclosed is this week's packet is the July and August 2002 Personnel Report, providing members with all the resignations, retirements and relocation of our staff.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

9. A copy of the August 27th Boston Globe census article which mentions Somerville as one of the community snapshots was provided. Dr. Argenziano mentioned that a little over 18 months ago we were close to 50% majority, 50% minority and according to the recent census that number has gone up to 70% majority.
10. Announced that Judy Reardon, Executive Secretary to the Commissioner of Education asked if he would be willing to speak on Thursday, September 12th at 12:30 when Commissioner Driscoll gives out the 2003 Graduates MCAS scores publicly. He explained to the committee he was selected to say a few words because Somerville was outstanding and showed the greatest improvement of the number of potential non-graduates and that number has been reduced. Dr. Argenziano expressed he is very pleased and proud to have the opportunity to publicly thank the students, teachers and administrations for their work.
11. The Parent Curriculum Guides for Grades Pre-K through Eight were distributed to the school buildings and every parent of every grade level will be receiving this information.
12. Informed members that all students have received the Somerville High School handbook.
13. Mentioned that our fall season is opening up in full swing in many sports. Football will be opening up at Watertown this coming Saturday, September 14th. We found out ten days ago that Conway won't be ready for our soccer team until October, so at the present time we are looking for a field.
14. Thanked the school committee for providing the school department with everything they needed to be able to have a smooth opening.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:* Ms. Rossetti (Sept. 9)

Subjects discussed:

✓ Water Safety & Station Update

Mr. Richard P. Cheney, Director of Pool Facilities was present for this evening's discussion.

Approved motion from subcommittee:

To have communication sent to the Department of Public Works Commissioner, Mr. David Dow and Project Manager, Mr. Tom Jones, requesting their presence at the next Finance and Facilities meeting for discussion of the Kennedy School punch list.

Amended motion from subcommittee:

To add for discussion, the Healey School punch list as well.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)

A. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:

- ✓ Building Utilization Request by the Somerville Pop Warner Association

Approved motion from subcommittee:

To waive the building use fee for the Somerville Pop Warner Association building use for the fall of 2002.

- ✓ Driver Education Program Discussion

Ms. Rossetti reported that the drivers' education program at the high school would be provided this year for our high school students who wish to participate.

- ✓ Teen Connection and the new Health Center Update

Ms. Rossetti informed members that, hopefully, by this February 1, 2003, we would be ready to have a grand opening ceremony for the Teen Connection Center and the new Health Center.

- ✓ Free and Reduced Lunch Program

Brief discussion took place regarding the free and reduced lunch program. Regarding the percentages of our children taking advantage of this program, the numbers are diminishing. Previously, 78% of students within our school system were using the free and reduced lunch program and as it stands today, that percentage is 50%. Further discussion will take place at an upcoming meeting, on the projection of how the Foodservices Department plans to handle their budget with this loss.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Tufts University - Scholarships

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, that communication be sent to the Mayor asking for an update as to when the school committee will be meeting with President Bacow to begin discussion for scholarships at Tufts University. The motion was approved by voice vote.

B. Storage of Medications/Inhalers in School Buildings

Regarding the storage of medicines and or inhalers in the school buildings, Ms. Taylor asked how a student would have access, if necessary, to their medication, in the absence of the school nurse. The Superintendent provided members with the MASC Somerville Public Schools Policy – page 9, File: JLCD, *Self Administration of Prescription Medications*. Dr. Argenziano referred to requirement #8 and informed the committee that according to

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont.)

B. **Storage of Medications/Inhalers in School Buildings**

the nurses he has spoken to across the city, the inhalers are not part of the locked medication that is in the policy under requirement #8. More importantly, before school and after school, especially for the K-5 students, most parents have been asked to give a back up in case the child loses their inhaler or cannot find it. In most buildings the inhalers are in an unopened area, they are marked with the student's name and there is a back up especially for before-school and after-school programs when nurses are not on duty. A building Principal or Assistant Principal can open the office so a student has access to their medication.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Unz Amendment**

Ms. Cardoso asked that we revise our group efforts to defeat the Unz Amendment, Referendum Question #2 on the Ballot. Please work with Linda Vitiello, STA President and Roger Rice, to get the word out as much as possible between now and the November election. We need to have our teachers go back to the cities and towns where they live and tell their families, friends and neighbors how devastating this proposal is to students and teachers.

B. **Mentoring Program**

Ms. Cardoso mentioned the information received on the mentoring program implemented this year and thanked all involved for putting such a great program together. Ms. Cardoso asked that, later in the year, if an update could be provided on how the staff is relating to this type of program.

C. **Grant Money FY 2002**

Ms. Cardoso congratulated the school department for their outstanding work on bringing \$9,000,000.00 of grant money in for FY 2002.

D. **Special Education Mass. Advocacy Group**

Ms. Rossetti received a phone call from Beth Simon regarding the special education Mass. Advocacy group meeting in Somerville and she would like to be in attendance. Ms. Rossetti asked that she receive an invitation to the next Ed. Programs and Instruction meeting. Ms. Murray responded she would task care of the details.

E. **Teachers As Scholars Program**

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Taylor, that communication be sent by Dr. Argenziano on behalf of the Somerville School Committee to Somerville State Legislators requesting that for the upcoming budget year they strongly consider putting back funding to the *Teachers As Scholars Program*. The motion was approved by voice vote.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Murray

1. There will be a Spaghetti Dinner at the West Somerville Neighborhood School on September 17th. Magician at 7:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Brown School PTA.
2. On September 19th the Brown School is having their first PTA Open House from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
3. September 18th, Business Entertainment Cards are being sold. The \$10.00 donation supports the Brown School PTA.
4. The Kennedy School is sponsoring a "Welcome Back Tea" on September 18th from 8:00-9:00 a.m.
5. Swimming class registration begins for residents, September 9th at the Kennedy School and for non-residents the date is September 16th.
6. The Winter Hill Community School will have its first PTA on September 24th at 6:30 p.m.
7. The *Somerville Cares About Prevention* meeting for the original Steering Committee will take place on Friday, September 13th from 3:00-4:00 in the Kennedy School library.
8. Beginning at 7:30 p.m. on September 11th, there will be a Candlelight Vigil, starting on Willow Avenue entrance to the Bike path and will continue into Davis Square.
9. Ms. Murray announced she is selling raffle tickets for the SHS 150th Anniversary Celebration *Cruise Direct Boston to Bermuda for Two "Norwegian Majesty"*. To purchase a ticket please contact her.

Ms. Taylor

1. The annual Duhamel Dinner will take place on September 28th at 6:30 p.m. at the Congregational Church.

Ms. Rossetti

1. There will be a PTA/Open House at the West Somerville Neighborhood School on Wednesday, September 18th @ 6:30 p.m. Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Halloran will be present that evening.
2. The Powder House Community School PTA/Open House will be held on Thursday, September 26 at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Halloran will be present that evening.
3. Reminder to all parents and guardians that volunteer sign-up sheets are coming home. Please check your child's backpack.
4. Reminder: The SHS 150 Anniversary Celebration is the weekend of October 11-13th. To purchase tickets, please contact Ms. Ferrari at (617)625-6600, x6010.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Ms. Rossetti

5. Would like to remember the victims and families of the September 11th tragedy with a moment of silence at the close of this evening's meeting.

Ms. Cardoso

1. Thanked staff and students for a great start to the school year. The buildings were in great shape. Ms. Cardoso visited Lincoln Park Community School and it looked wonderful. Keep up the good work!
2. Thanked the Traffic and Parking Department for responding to the school committee's request to paint the crosswalks before school opened. Ms. Cardoso asked neighbors that they please cut back the overgrowth of bushes and shrubs that protrude into the sidewalk because the children have to go into the street in order not to hit these bushes and shrubs, some of which have thorns.
3. Title I Open House is Friday, September 13th at the Winter Hill Community School – Title I Office and the first Title I PAC meeting is next Tuesday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Winter Hill Community School. The Title I Prizeola is scheduled for October 15th. The funds raised are for the Ray Izzo Scholarship Foundation.
4. In the Mayor's absence, Ms. Cardoso announced that there will be a Candlelight Vigil on September 11th beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the intersection of Willow Avenue and the bike path and will proceed to Davis Square where there will be a dedication and memorial service in the island area in front of Mike's Pizza. Candles will be provided.
5. The *Spice of Life Festival* is Sunday, September 22nd from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. in Union Square. If you have a special talent or want to set up an outreach/information table or craft table, please contact the Somerville Arts Council. The next meeting is Thursday, September 12th. Volunteers are still needed – please join in.
6. Mentioned that Amber Lily Darosa (Student Representative, Kim Carvalho's niece) was doing better. She is home from the hospital but still has a long road ahead of her. Please continue to keep her in your prayers. A fundraiser is being worked on and Ms. Cardoso will get the information to members when it is available.

Mr. Sullivan

1. The Jeffrey Curley Memorial Run will take place on September 29th at 10:00 a.m. For an application please call (617)764-1419. Proceeds go to child safety programs. This is a very good cause. If you can't run it, you can walk it.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items of communication this evening.

XII. PERSONNEL

School Committee members were notified and accepted the following personnel actions of July and August 2002 as follows:

July 2002 Personnel Report

- As listed in August 26, 2002 School Committee Minutes.

August 2002 Personnel Report

- As follows:

A. **Resignations**

1. Paula Pagoda, 783 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472 (Lead Teacher @ Community Schools) as of August 23, 2002.
2. Hester Young, 80 North St., Lexington, MA 02420 (Lead Teacher @ Community Schools) as of August 9, 2002.
3. Natalie Calixte, 34 Robinson St. Somerville, MA 02145 (Lead Teacher @ Community Schools) as of August 2, 2002.
4. Anabella Vasconcellos, 61 Bristol Rd., Medford, MA 02155 (Bilingual Teacher @ SHS) as of August 22, 2002.
5. Meghan Aycocock, 441 Medford St., Malden, MA 02148 (SPED Teacher @ SHS) effective August 19, 2002.
6. Teresa McDermott, 103 Fayerweather St. #2, Cambridge, MA 02138 (Paraprofessional) effective August 26, 2002.

B. **Maternity Leave of Absence**

1. Maureen O-Meara Robichaux, 47 Tallant Rd., Pelham, N.H. 03076, Teacher @ Next Wave from September 3, 2002 to October, 2002.

C. **Paternity Leave of Absence**

2. John Oteri, 66 Hawes Ave., Melrose, MA 02176 (Social Studies Teacher @ SHS) effective 9/3/02.

D. **Administration**

High School

Vice Headmaster @ SHS
Effective August 19, 2002
Vice: Nancy Bowdring (retired)

Anthony Ciccariello
86 Raymond Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144
Cert. # 220599 Principal 5-12
Sup/Dir (all); Social Stud 5-12
Salary: \$77,887

XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

SHS

Mathematics Teacher
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: E. Roberts (retired)

Marguerite Ormond
105 Playstead Rd.
W. Medford, MA 02155
Cert. # 373961 (Bus. 5-12)
(Math 5-12 Pending)
Salary: M, Step = \$34,021

Mathematics Teacher
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: New Position

Antonio Pera
62 Kenmore Rd.
Medford, MA 02155
Cert. # 329669 (Math 5-12)
Salary: B, Step B = \$32,151

SPED Paraprofessional
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: M. Byrne (resigned)

Frank J. Mantresor
1 Hancock St., #1
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$12,294

Authorized

Portuguese Teacher
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: L. Reis (retired)

Debra Coivo
50 Dudley Rd.
Newton Center, MA 02459
*Waiver
Salary: B, Step F = \$38,851

SPED Vocational Teacher
Effective 9/3/02
Somerville, MA 02143

Jennifer Taylor
99 Porter St. #3
Somerville, MA 02143
Cert.#319450 (Elem 1-6, SPED N-9)
Salary: B, Step D = \$35,064

Cummings

Sped Paraprofessional
Effective 9/16/02
Vice: Savares (Trans to SHS)

Amy Boyden
10 Appleton St.
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$12,294

Edgerly

E.C. SPED Teacher
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: New Position (Grant Funded)

Donna Fils-Aime
23 Whittier Ave.
Waltham, MA 02451
Cert. # 275724 (EC K-3, SPED N-9)
Salary: M, Step H = \$48,878

XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

Edgerly

Spanish Bilingual Teacher
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: Cruz (No Waiver)

Yolanda Gonzales
70 Heard St.
Chelsea, MA 02156
Cert. #362759 (TBE, Elem 1-6)
Salary: M, Step B = \$35,186

Smile Paraprofessional
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: M. Foster (trans)

Mary C. Johnson
18 Gibbons St.
Somerville, MA 02143
Salary: \$12,292

Healey School

Authorized

Technology Education Teacher
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: P. Cionek (not rehired)

David Young
42 Forest St.
Lexington, MA 02421
*Waiver
Salary: B, Step H = \$44,677

Choice Paraprofessional K
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: New Position

Catherine Arcolio
9 Beacon Pl.
Somerville, MA 02143
Salary: \$12,292

Kennedy School

SPED Paraprofessional
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: Mangino (resigned)

Antonio Neto
10 River Rd. #1003
Somerville, MA 02145
Salary: \$12,292

WHCS

Language Arts Teacher
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: D. Rudolph (Promoted to VP)

Melanie Konstandakis
38A Melrose St.
Arlington, MA 02474
Cert. # 342239 (Soc. Stud, Eng 5-12)
Salary: M, Step B = \$35,186

Assistant Title 1 Parent Coordinator
Effective 9/1/02
Vice: New Position

Maria Madrid
11 Chandler St.
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$29,000

XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

Authorized

4th Grade Teacher
Effective 9/3/02
vice: F. Carino (Trans to Grant position)

Cara Fidalgo
36 Foxcroft Rd.
Winchester, MA 01890
Cert. # 374783 (Elem 1-6)
Salary: B, Step B = \$32,151

Smile Paraprofessional
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: K. Goodwin (resigned)

Marie Starbile
51 Putnam Rd.
Somerville, MA 02145
Salary: \$12,292

Music Dept.

Elementary Instrumental Music
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: R. Romanoff (trans)

Rosemary Sears
1 Orchard St.
Westford, MA 01886
Cert. # 334287 (Music 5-12)
Salary: M, Step D = \$38,099

Community Schools

Lead Teacher for SACC Program
Effective 9/16/02
Funding Source: 5128

Sandra Achadinha
346 Main St.
Medford, MA 02155
Salary: \$15 per hour

Civil Service

Parent Information Center

Promotion

Provisional Principal Clerk
Effective: 9/2/02
Vice: Eileen Vroom (deceased)

Anna Aiello
13 Langmaid Ave.
Somerville, MA 02145
Salary: \$31,121

Somerville Family Network

Senior Clerk 1
Effective 9/2/02
Vice: New Position (Grant Funded)

Leah Arrendondo
10 Harvard Place
Somerville, MA 02143
Salary: \$26,855

XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

East Somerville Community School

Transfer from Arlington

Senior Clerk 2

Effective Date 8/27/02

Vice: C. Goodwin (trans.)

Barbara Favaloro

27 Franklin St.

Somerville, MA 02145

Salary: \$22,449

XIII. MOMENT OF SILENCE

The superintendent reported with regret the deaths of the following persons. A moment of silence was observed and letters of sympathy will be sent to their families.

1. Brian Higgins, (Aug. 29), son of Debra Higgins, Somerville SPED PAC Coordinator
2. Muriel King (Sept. 5), former 1st grade teacher of the Cutler-Conwell Schools
3. Ruth L. Brennan, (Sept.8), founder of the PTA Scholarship Foundation

The Superintendent also asked that during our moment of silence we remember the number of people who tragically lost their lives last September 11th and the number of families that are still grieving and will grieve for a very, very long time.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary